



Q2 Chapter Curriculum

Nov/Dec 2022

Wintertime and the holidays are very difficult times for youth and adults impacted by homelessness. **44% of people facing homelessness are unsheltered**, and 700 people experiencing homelessness are killed from hypothermia in the United States annually.

Unhoused community members face many difficulties during winter. **Lack of warm clothing, malnutrition, and illness** is common. Warm clothing, including coats, hats, mittens, and socks is the first line of defense in cold weather. People who are unhoused do not have an extra change in clothes when wet, increasing the **risk of hypothermia**.

Hats are especially important!
50%
of your body heat is lost through your head.



Malnutrition is rampant among people who are homeless. Full, healthy, and calorie-dense meals are imperative for **preventing illness and disease**.

Youth impacted by homelessness face other issues. Many grade-school youths who have aged out of foster care may **not have a place to go** when schools close for the holidays. Plus, the holidays exacerbate a growing mental health crisis as many youth **don't have families** to celebrate with, and the isolation and stigma surrounding homelessness increase feelings of depression and hopelessness.

It is our job as EEqual Chapter Members to support our neighbors who are unhoused! Read over this quarter's action item for details on what you will be working on!

Discussion Questions: (Small group chat with fellow Chapter Members)

- 1** What are some difficulties specific to your community that affects people experiencing homelessness?
- 2** What are some difficulties students experiencing homelessness face during the holidays/winter in your community?
- 3** What items can you collect that will help the lives of people facing homelessness in your community? Make a list.



Q2 Chapter Action Item

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This quarter, as we enter the winter season, you will be **hosting a collection/drive** to support your community members facing homelessness. For this action item, you will have the flexibility to **collect items** that are specifically in need within your community.

1 Get **permission** from your school/organization to host your collection/drive. Meet with an admin, explain the project and get their permission before proceeding.

2 **Reach out** to your community partners that you established in Quarter 1 and ask what items are most in need of being collected.

Clothing

Coats, Hats, Gloves, Socks, Underwear

Gifts

Holiday Gifts for Homeless Families

Hygiene

Personal Cleanliness Products

3 Work with your team to **make a plan** for your collection/drive. What items are you going to collect? How will you collect these items? Where will these items be stored during the collection process? Where will you donate the items?

Making a flier to market your collection/drive is imperative when trying to activate the resources in your community! Everyone needs to know about your collection efforts in order to donate! Hang fliers. Ask your school/organization to send fliers out to parents/teachers/community members.

4 **Start collecting** items for people in your community affected by homelessness. Many Chapters will place decorated cardboard boxes in the lobbies of their school or front office, providing a place for easy donation drop-off.

5 Report Back! **Tell EEqual about all of your success.** How many items did your collect? Who did you donate these items to? Take lots of Photos/Videos of the collection process, donation process, and of your team working to enact this collection/drive and share it with the EEqual Chapter Team email Chapters@EEqual.org! Any Chapter that completes the service project, provides photo/video proof, and turns in photo/video release forms will receive a pizza party gift card!